

Independence Day

TORRANCE HERALD

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New Housing Tracts Set Blistering Pace

Another Record Looms for 1954

Torrance set a record, both in the number of permits for new home construction and in the valuation of building permits issued during the first six months of 1954, according to figures compiled by Walter C. Bradford, senior clerk in the city building department. If these trends continue, the city seems well on

Spaces Open On YMCA Trip To Mountains

Seven more places are available on the YMCA's trip to Round Meadows for boys 8½ to 14. Stan Roberts, camp director, has announced.

The original limit of 126 has been reached, he said, but another cabin has been rented to accommodate any other boys who would like to go. The trip is from July 13 to 20.

Two more leaders have been added to the counseling staff—Tony Ward and Clifford Grace, both members of the Torrance Hi-Y Club. Ward was a leader in 1953.

All boys going on the trip will take their physicals on Friday, July 9, at 7 p.m., at the YMCA. At that time, the balance of the \$25 fees will be received and boys will deposit their spending money for the camp.

The boys will travel by chartered bus to Round Meadows, which is located in the San Bernardino Mountains.

At the same time, Roberts announced that one spot is left on a trip for boys 12 to 16 which make a tour of the High Sierras.

its way to setting a new record in both categories, a feat which has been accomplished annually for the past several years.

During the first six months, 1665 permits for new houses were issued, compared with 1537 at this time last year. The record number of one year, 2873, seems likely to be surpassed again this year.

Ahead of '53 in valuation of building permits, the city is over \$2.3 million ahead of last year. Total permits issued so far total \$17,034,145, compared with \$14,716,768.

The money collected on building permits during June nearly doubled that of a year ago—\$2,892,880 against \$1,472,002 a year ago.

If the trend continues, the record for valuation of building permits should be broken again this year. Last year's total was \$20,818,285.

Figures for the last five half-year periods are:

Period	Ttl. Bldg. Val.	No. Hse. Permits
Jan.-June, 1954	\$17,034,145	1665
July-Dec., 1953	\$15,598,507	1335
Jan.-June, 1953	\$14,716,758	1537
July-Dec., 1952	\$8,159,969	844
Jan.-June, 1952	\$10,827,263	973

Frank Held To Answer On Robbery

Paul Robert Frank, 32, charged with robbery and grand theft, was bound over to Superior Court Friday by South Bay Municipal Judge John A. Shidler. Frank was recently returned from Portland, Ore., where he was captured after a year-long search for him.

He is charged in connection with a daring \$30,000 daylight robbery on April 2, 1953, when he and two companions allegedly beat and robbed Joe Alden, credit manager of the National Supply Company's Employees Credit Union, as he was returning from the bank to his office.

The case will be heard in Los Angeles Superior Court, Department 44, on July 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Jaycees Win Trophy for Club Visit

For the second time in a year, the Torrance Jaycees have won the Man-Mile Award for best attendance at a district meeting.

The award is figured on the basis of distance traveled per man attending. Thirty members attended the District 12 meeting at Manhattan Beach. The area includes eight clubs from Wilmington to Westchester.

Honored guests at the meeting were Ira Kaye, San Pedro, national director. The delegate Paul Diamond, of the national Jaycee convention in Colorado Springs.

Employers To Hold Dinner

The Harbor Area Employers' Council will hold a barbecue supper for members and friends on August 24 at the Royal Palms.

The supper will cost \$5 for two people, and will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Two Torrance men, Paul Diamond, of the Gay Shop, and Louis Arbetter, of Allen Jewelers, are on the barbecue committee. The date of the entertainment as yet unannounced on the program.

Bids Awarded For 174th St.

Contracts have now been awarded for the extension of State Highway 175 as far east as Alameda St., according to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Most of the highway runs along 174th St.

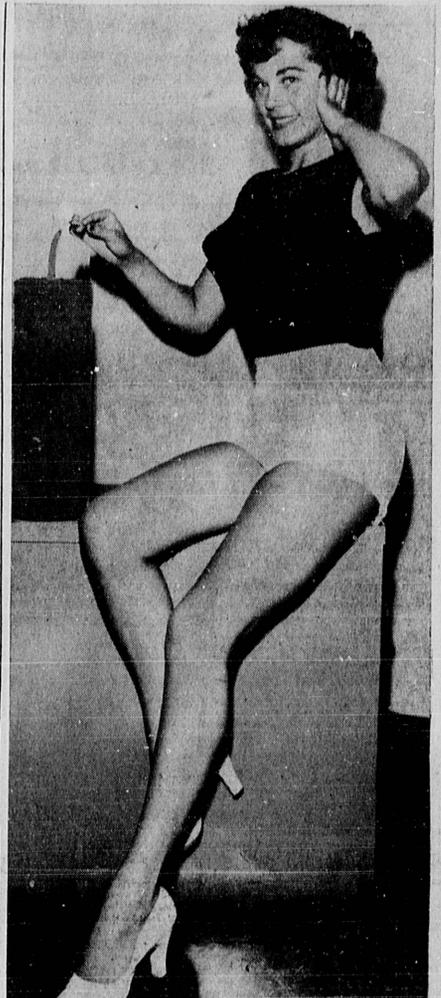
The contract to construct the road between Normandie Ave. and Main St. was awarded to the Sheets Construction Company of Gardena. The work is to be completed by the end of May, 1955, at a cost of \$550,000.

The Vido Kovacevich Company has been awarded the contract (\$1,700,000) for the construction of the road between Main St. and Alameda St. Work is to be completed by the end of November, 1955.

WBC FAVORS RESTRICTED BUILDING IN LAKE AREA

Members of the Walteria Businessmen's Club went on record Thursday night as favoring the proposed formation of a building restriction zone in the Walteria Lake area.

The first public hearing on the proposal will be held Wednesday night at the Planning Commission meeting, to begin at 7 p.m. in the City Hall. The zone is to be formed to allow construction of a retention basin to help drain the area



DANGEROUS LIVING . . . Darleen Craig, new entry in the Miss Torrance Beauty Pageant, throws caution to the wind as she gets ready to light up a firecracker that's "the most." The rest of you better stick to sparklers and pinwheels, however, when celebrating today.

COUNTY TAKES OVER WEST BASIN TESTING

The operation of the West Basin fresh water barrier was taken over by the Zone 2 program of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District on July 1.

The barrier, designed to keep sea water from polluting fresh water tables underneath the area, was formerly maintained by assessment of West Basin water Association members and contributions from non-member agencies.

The change means that the operation of refilling the water tables will be taken over by a special assessment district of the County rather than by West Basin towns.

A new method of testing the water pumped back into the ground was announced at the same time. Three hundred pounds of sugar is placed in the water in a highly concentrated form. This will be used to trace the flow of such water in tests at other wells and is harmless.

2 TRASH DUMPERS FINED \$5 APIECE

Two men charged with illegally dumping trash on 170th St., near Hawthorne Blvd., pleaded guilty in South Bay Municipal Court and were fined \$5 each by Judge John A. Shidler. The men were Harold Greenberg, 24, Los Angeles, and Franklin Orlin Schuett, 31, Lawndale.

Skies To Light Bright Tonight

The skies will be lighted tonight by two fireworks displays, one in Redondo and one at the Palos Verdes Swimming Club.

The Redondo pyrotechnics will be set off at 8:45 p.m. from a fishing barge anchored southwest of the Redondo piers. The traditional Palos Verdes display will be set off at approximately the same time at the Club, which is located on the shoreline of Malaga Cove.

Checks Stolen from Lomita Supply Firm

Torrance police have warned local merchants to be on the lookout for checks of the S & J Home Supply Company, 26357 Western Ave., Lomita.

Thieves recently broke into the company, stealing a check writer and checkbooks, numbered 228 and 1493.

Torrance Herald Special Features

Allied Gardens	9
Clubs	8
Criswell	4
Editorials	4
Ellinwood	9
John Beck	4
Septuaginta-Victoria	6
Society	7.8
Sports	5
Tor-Nido Tidbits	2
Want Ads—Classified	10



DUTIES . . . Deanna Shriver, left, and Ruth Larson put the finishing touches on their song and dance to "Sioux City Sue" which they will present at the Recreation Department talent show today at Torrance City Park. They and other gifted Torrance youths have been formed into a talent troupe by Torrance High School teacher Louis Bereskin and will tour local playgrounds and recreation centers this summer.

Variety Show To Be Staged At City Park

A troupe of strolling players—formed strictly from Torrance talent—will make its debut today at Torrance Park in a variety show to begin at 2 p.m.

The City Recreation Department has organized some of the top singers and dancers in Torrance to present summer shows at various city parks and recreation centers.

Supervising the group is Louis Bereskin, Torrance High School instructor. He arranges the programs, which are presented free of charge.

Soloists to be featured in today's show are Sandy Gish, Yolanda Goldsmith, Ann Flanagan, Dianne Powers, Deanna Shriver and Shirley Hobson. Dancing will be Ella Mae McLeod, Mickey Van Deventer, Alice Olson, Jan Stevens, Ruth Ellen Larson and Charlene Van Deusen and instrumentalists will be Gerald Nichols, Ann Leo and Tom Green.

Survey Points to 35 mph Limit on 174th Street

All field work on a speed limit survey of the newly opened portion of 174th St. has been completed and results point to a "possible" posting of a 35-mile-per-hour speed limit, the State Division of Highways reported this week.

The Traffic Department's engineering survey on the road, conducted since last week, will be submitted to Sacramento with recommendations for speed limit. California has only four speed limits—25, 35, 45 and 55—and "you can throw the 55 out on 174th St." according to Alfred Goldin, assistant district traffic engineer. He added that the 45 will be discarded in most cases along the street.

Radar was used to check speeds of vehicles using 174th from Felton St. on the west to Normandie Ave. on the east. The street is heavily residential from Hawthorne Blvd. to Western Ave. and residents of the area had complained that the widened highway in front of their homes had caused a "death trap" for their children.

STEELMAN GETS UTAH PROMOTION

J. M. "Tex" Carrera, superintendent of the open hearth department at the Columbia-Geneva Steel Company in Torrance, has been promoted to assistant works metallurgist at the Geneva works in Provo, Utah. General Superintendent Lawrence F. Black, has announced.

A native of El Paso, Tex., Carrera has been with the steel company for about 14 years. He has served in San Francisco and Pittsburg, California, as well as Torrance.

WEATHER

Fog and low clouds spreading inland from the coast this morning will be followed by hazy sunshine and a few clouds this afternoon with the temperature expected to hit a warm 83, according to the Weather Bureau.

Truck Sought After Fatal Crash

Five young San Pedro residents met death and injury early Friday morning on Figueroa St. near East Rd., as the car in which they were riding struck the rear end of a truck, which has seemingly disappeared.

Gone too were the recollections of the youths as to the details of the crash, although Highway Patrol Investigator Jack Shoemaker said their memories were gradually returning. One girl could not even recall where she had been before the crash.

Dead was the driver of the car, 19-year-old Kent O. Christiansen, who was dead when found by officials about an hour after the crash. The car was ap-

parently thrown to the side of the road and was not discovered for some time.

The other victims were taken to Harbor General Hospital where young Christiansen's mother, Mrs. Margaret Christiansen, was working as a nurse's aide. She collapsed upon hearing the news, and is under doctor's care.

Suffering critical head injuries, but apparently recovering, are Christiansen's 22-year-old sister, Marlene, and Ethel Patterson, 15. Ethel's sister, Nancy, 18, was less seriously injured, while Patricia Glaviano, 20, has been discharged from the hospital.

Officials are searching for the truck which was involved in the accident. The hazy recollections

of the survivors make it impossible to get a clear picture of what happened, Shoemaker said, although indications are that the truck was parked. The driver apparently drove away, but officials were confident he would be found, since he would have green paint on his truck.

Highway patrolmen figured that Christiansen must have been going about 60 miles an hour before the accident, slowing down before colliding with the truck.

The dead boy's father said the group had attended a Sunday school party Thursday evening, and then attended a performance of "The King and I," a musical comedy in downtown Los Angeles, from where they were apparently returning.



EYEFUL . . . Something about "Knickerbocker Holiday" has Dick Bonham of Hollywood Riviera Barney Google-eyed. Maybe it's the fact that the musical comedy opens in less than a week—Friday night, July 9, to be exact—at Redondo High School auditorium. Bonham portrays the comical town jailer in the South Bay Civic Opera Association show, which was written by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson.